

Message Text

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FOR A/CCT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING: PRESS

1. AS CONSEQUENCE OF FOUR DAY CARNIVAL HOLIDAY PERIOD, PAPERS ARE THIN ON NEWS WITH MAJOR STORY BEING NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING, THE FRONTPAGE LEAD IN ALL CARACAS MORNING PAPERS.

2. EL UNIVERSAL'S TREATMENT IS TYPICAL. FIVE COLUMN HEAD OVER PHOTOS OF TWO SUSPECTED KIDNAPPERS READS: "ACCORDING TO POLICE REPORTS, GUERILLA LEADER FRANCISCO PRADA DIRECTED THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING." SUBHEADS READ: "THE AUTHORITIES ALSO IMPLICATE (FOUR PERSONS LISTED)...AS MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WHICH GRABBED NIEHOUS; THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED LATESTS REPORTS OF THE INVESTIGATION....SECURITY FORCES DOUBT THE AUTHENTICITY OF SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE KIDNAPPERS, AND CAUTION DISCRETION."

3. EL UNIVERSAL HAS SECOND HEAD IN CENTER OF FRONTPAGE: "RELATIVES OF OWENS-ILLIONOIS DIRECTOR ASK FOR PROOF FROM KIDNAPPERS THAT THEY WERE THE ONES WHO RAIDED (NIEHOUS) HOME."
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PAPER DEVOTES ENTIRE BACK PAGES OF BOTH SECOND AND LAST SECTIONS

OF PAPER TO SPECULATIVE AND HUMAN INTEREST ITEMS. UNDER WRAPUP OF STORIES DEALING WITH POLICE INVESTIGATIONS ARE SUBHEADS: "THE CAR USED IN KIDNAPPING WAS FOUND IN MARACAY (ABOUT ONE HOUR'S DRIVE FROM CARACAS) AND IN IT WERE NIEHOUS' IDENTITY CARD AND CHECK-BOOK...SOME EXTREMISTS WERE WORKING FOR THE OWENS-ILLINOIS COMPANY IN VALENCIA (VENEZUELAN INDUSTRIAL CITY)... AMONG LEFTISTIS, RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING THAT THERE IS A CHANGE OF TACTICS AND INSTEAD OF 'TRYING' THE HOSTAGE, THEY WILL DEMAND A LARGE RANSOM."

4. EL NACIONAL USES SAME MATERIAL. FRONT PAGE HEADLINES OVER PHOTO OF ABANDONED KIDNAPPING CAR IN MARACAY, WITH CAPTION: "WITH THE SHIRT AND PANTS THAT NIEHOUS WORE THE NIGHT HE WAS KIDNAPPED, THE POLICE LOCATED THE CAR IN WHICH IT APPEARS THE WORLD PRESIDENT (SIC) OF OWENS-ILLINOIS WAS CARRIED AWAY. ALSO FOUND IN THE AUTOMOBILE WERE A CHECK-BOOK, A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE AND CAPSULES OF LARGACTIL, THE ANTISPASMODIC SEDATIVE GIVEN TO BY THE KIDNAPPERS TO NIEHOUS. THE CAR WAS STOLEN LAST NOVEMBER. THIS IS ONE OF THE DETAILS WHICH INDICATES THAT THE KIDNAPPING WAS TO BE DONE ON DECEMBER 13, 1975." PAPER ALSO DEVOTES BACK PAGE, FINAL SECTION, TO STORY, WITH ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF SUSPECTED KIDNAPPERS, NIEHOUS RESIDENCE, AND ENVIRONS.

5. TABLOID ULTIMAS NOTICIAS HEADLINES: "RELATIVES AND OWENS-ILLINOIS--DRAMATIC CALL FOR KIDNAPPERS TO NEGOTIATE...ULTIMATUM FROM GROUP THAT AUTHORITIES PUBLISH ENTIRE (TEXT) OF DOCUMENT." HEADLINE IS OVER LARGE PHOTO OF LOCAL OWENS-ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE WHO HAS BEEN SERVING AS COMPANY SPOKESMAN. ONE STORY ON INSIDE PAGE HAS BANNER HEADLINE; "STARTING WITH THE IDEA THAT THE CIA IS INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPING; THE POLICE ARE WORKING ONSOME ABSURD HYPOTHESES." SHLAUDEMAN

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